DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 10/8/99
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Met E at the St. Regis. Dined at the Brook with friends.

April 12, 1961 - Wednesday

Left Idlewild at 10AM on Pan American jet. Neil McElroy and his wife were aboard. Nice fellow. We talked about defense matters. The news of the Soviet spaceman, Major Yuri Gagarin, soaring through space was exciting. What a marvelous feat. How extraordinary that flesh and blood could survive the pressures.

Our flight was uneventful - about seven hours. Bill Clark and Frazier Meade met me at the airport.

April 13, 1961 - Thursday

Went down to Lloyd's Bank today, and lunched with Oliver Franks. He had six or seven of his associates as guests, as well as a visiting Finnish banker. One of those present was an elderly gentlemen, formerly Chairman of the Board, whose name had been Bruce, although his present one is Lord Burleigh. He was almost vexed over my ignorance of my family genealogy. I told him I believed that my earliest American ancestors had come over from Scotland about 1650 and settled in Virginia; it was supposed he had emigrated from a village called Kinross or Kinloss. This was all I knew about the family except an impression that all descendents of Robert the Bruce origins

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REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 2 OCT 1981
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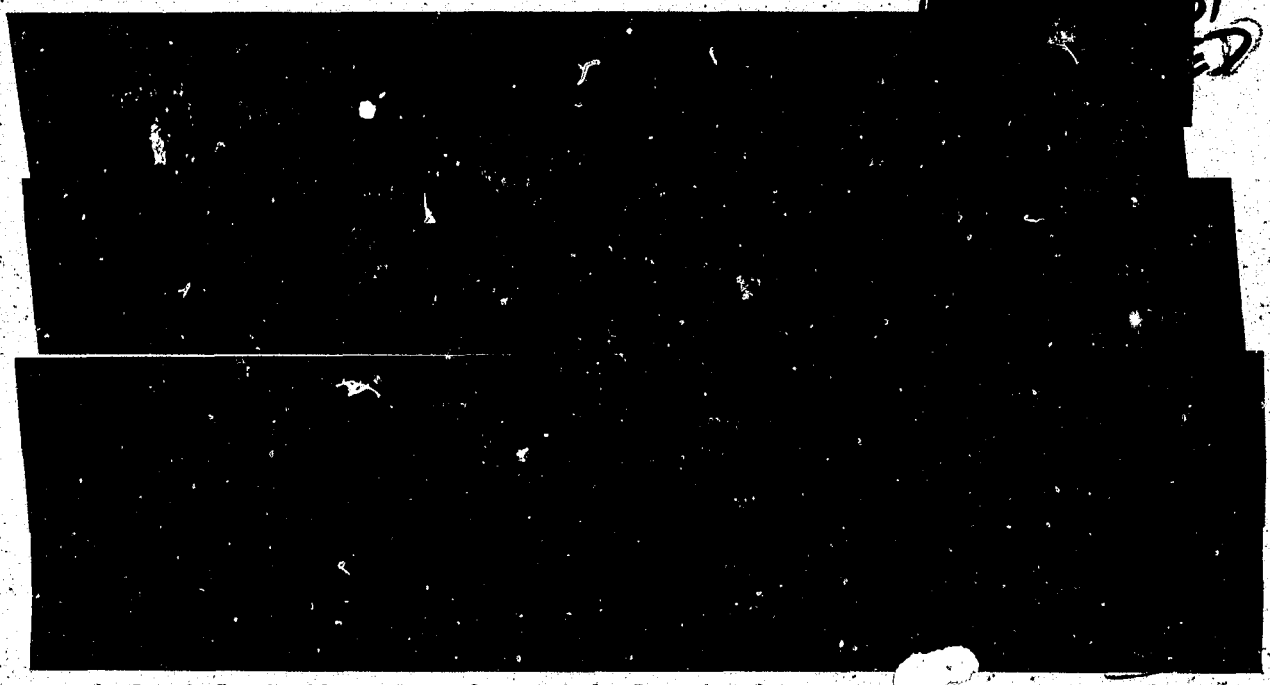
April 14, 1961 - Friday

I had a large staff meeting at noon. I warned people not to manifest any knowledge other than that derived from newspapers on what happened in Washington during Macmillan's visit/ the 6-7 item. The administration does not want to use any further persuasion on the British in this affair, thinking it might be resented as pressure, and likely to prove contraproductive. George Ball, Monnet and I are fully agreed upon this.

Wally Barbour and I lunched at Puck's Club.



At 3 o'clock, the Nigerian High Commissioner, wearing an extraordinary, but somewhat soiled, imperial yellow skull cap, called on me to speak of attempts being made by the French to negate the result of the Cameroons plebisite. The natives in the northern part of the Cameroons had voted to be Nigerians, and his government is anxious to implement this decision. Alhaji Abdullalki, the High Commissioner, is said, by members of our staff who have met him, to be strongly pro-American.

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REVIEWED BY mrv DATE 21 OCT 1981
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~~He has a likeable personality.~~ This is the first time he has approached us on official business. He has been in London several years, serving first as Commissioner from Northern Nigeria, later as Commissioner for Nigeria before its independence, and now as High Commissioner. He is a Northerner, of Moslem religion, and is close both to the Nigerian Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, and the Premier of the Northern Region, Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto.

[redacted]

Roger Makins and John Wheeler-Bennett called on me, [redacted] and we chatted about the foundation set up by the Wills tobacco family at Ditchley. It is to be conducted somewhat along the lines of Arden House. Wills has given Ditchley Hall and enough surrounding acreage to protect it, together with a large endowment fund, to a Board of Trustees, of which I am to become a member. They wish to approach Everett Gleason, our Cultural

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Attache, and ask him to become the first Provost of the institution. I think it an excellent choice. His tour here terminates this summer, and I hope he will take it. I am so glad the place of which I have many fond memories will be maintained. There are few houses in the world as beautiful.

This morning I saw part of the BBC television broadcast from Moscow, depicting the triumphal arrival and reception of the new Soviet hem, Gagarin. He is a nice looking Major of 27. He was almost smothered with kisses by Khruschev and other high officials, men, women and children, and blanketed with flowers.

Harriet and Winthrop Aldrich came by to see the new building. They are to dine with me. I had a call from Roger Stevens to come to the Foreign Office.

[redacted]

The higher echelons of the Foreign Office have been rather depleted today. Home is in Scotland, Hoyer Millar is in the near east, Heath is on vacation. Also the Prime Minister is not in London.